

Organization _____ Bldg./Room _____

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

If Undeliverable Return In Ten Days

Official Business

Penalty For Private Use, \$300

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

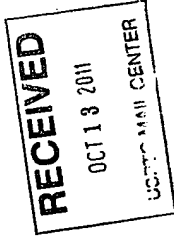


02 1M \$00.440

000424535 OCT 04 2011

MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 22314

482 DE 1



NIXIE 482 DE 1 OO 10/05/11

RETURN TO SENDER
NOT DELIVERABLE
UNABLE TO FORWARD

DC: 22313145080 *0633-06947-09-24

4830435154 223131450



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

9200/3622

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No.

DONALD L. WOOD
HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS
1400 NORTH WOODWARD, STE. 101
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48304

MAILED

OCT 04 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

RECEIVED

OCT 20 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Patent No. 5,697,260 :
Rixon et al. :
Issue Date: December 16, 1997:
Application No. 08/741,981 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: October 31, 1996 :
Attorney Docket No. D11-051 :

This is a decision on the PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c)) filed September 22, 2011 to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is GRANTED.

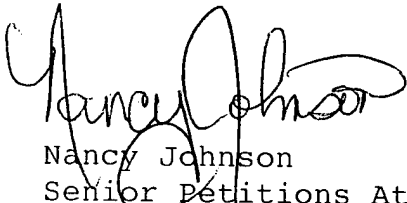
The patent issued December 16, 1997. Office records indicate that the first and second maintenance fees were timely received. The grace period for paying the third maintenance fee provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e) expired at midnight on December 16, 2009, with no payment received.

The petition was timely filed within twenty-four months after the expiration of the six-month grace period. Further, as required, petitioner submitted with the petition the required maintenance fee, the surcharge for accepting an unintentionally delayed maintenance fee after expiration, and a statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

This petition was filed by a registered patent practitioner. The address set forth on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. A courtesy copy of this decision is being sent to the address on the petition. All future correspondence will be sent to the correspondence address presently of record, until such time, if at all, as a change of correspondence address (patent) is made of record.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.



Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

cc: Gifford, Krass, Sprinkle, Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.
P.O. Box 7021
Troy, MI 48007-7021